

THE
SPIRIT
OF
PARTY.

CHAPTER the THIRD.

WHEREIN IS CONTAINED THE

SECOND PART

OF THE

HISTORY

OF THE

Knight of the Bridge.

Addressed to the People of IRELAND.

Printed in the Year 1753.

[PRICE, THREE-PENCE.]

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THE good Steward was now gone to the Land of his Nativity. When, on a fair and sunny Morning, a Morning that promised right happy Success, our Hero issued forth to seek Adventures.

He had stored himself with a *quantum sufficit*, as he thought, as well of his *Data* as his *Preparation*, and was desperately determined to conquer the Affections of every Man, Woman, and Child throughout the Manor.

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The greatest and worthiest Enterprizes are often snubbed in their very Cradles, but whether such Checks are intended as Lessons of Humility or Lessons of Perseverance, I really for the present cannot wait to determine.

Now, as ill Luck would have it, this happened on the Day of the great Market of the Manor, and the Concourse from all Sides was more than common for the Occasion. At Sight of this Multitude, the Knight was suddenly posed, and comparing, by a short kind of mental Arithmetic, the Number of his Specifics with the Number of such a Throng, he gathered that for this Time he had been out in his Reckoning, and retreated with much Discomposure and Chagrin.

He now reflected on the Difficulty and Fatigue that must attend his administering by Individuals to an Infinity of Personages, and thence inferred the Impossibility, by the Method proposed, of any amorous Connection with the whole Body of such a People, and less than this he held beneath the Flight of his Genius, the Reach of his Ambition, and the Kindness of his Heart.

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He cast about through the illimitable Capacity of Nature, he nine Times made the Tour of his spacious Invention, he collected, and dislevered, and racked, and abstracted the abstruse Entities, and Ratios, and Qualities of Things. Might there not be some Method potentially revealed for the Reduction of living Essences to competent Numbers and Quantities? Distracted in the Depth of such Questions and Researches, while unformed Schemes, like Ghosts, successively glared on his Imagination, and successively retired to Chaos and kindred Night; our Projector was graciously relieved from his Anxiety by a gentle and deep Sleep that stole upon his Senses.

He dreamed that he sat before an immeasurable Receiver, the Bottom thereof was flat and of amazing Extent, and the Top thereof reached the Clouds in the Form of a Dome. In this were at once gathered and represented to his View every human Individual that inhabited the Manor, together with the Embryos of all their Posterity, their future Sons and Daughters from Generation to Generation.

Here, he conceived the glorious Opportunity at hand, for reducing his long labour-

ed Project into Practice. Here, he saw his Country all summed and collected, all disclosed to his Eye, and submitted to his Pleasure.

He paused, he deliberated, he traced Actions to their Events and distant Consequences. He wished Happiness to the whole Group that now lay at his Disposal, and in wishing to be the Means, there stole in a secret Wish of Exaltation to himself. When, after a competent Struggle between Patriotism, and Glory, between many tender, and many honourable Emotions, He determined, for fear of Failure in the Operation, to commence with the usual Process of Chymists on the like Occasions, and thereafter to vary as Opportunity might occur.

Thus resolved, he vigorously laid his Hand to the Pump, and, with much Toil and Application, endeavoured to rid the Receiver of all that obstinate Body of Air called *Elementum horrescens*, whose Qualities could only serve to render the Matter in hand less ductile to the Management and Method of the Operator.

Having proceeded thus far, he put a slow Fire under, and laying aside the Top of this wonderful Vessel, to give Room for all superfluous

perfidious People to evacuate; he threw in a few Papers of his separating Powders, and with much delightful Contemplation attended the Effect.

Perhaps, curious and learned Reader, you may, at some time, have heard of the Demigods of the Ancients. When any of them was reduced by the great Alchemist called Death, it was said to be the Custom of that eminent Virtuoso to divide the Unity of each Demigod into two resembling Persons; and that, having so done, he dissolved the pliner Intelligences into its kindred Empery, and bequeathed its grosser Representation to the Regions below.

Now, this Ancient Rule of Practice, may greatly help your Conception of the Procedure of our ingenious Knight, in the Reduction of his Countrymen. For, permitting the more spirited Parts to evaporate, he retained no other than the weighty Symbols, the Stars, the Constellations, as it were, of their Natures; to be the proper and rightful Occupants of this antilupernal Receptacle.

Having, at length sufficiently abridged and reduced the whole Manor to about one Tenth of a Thousand of the solid Contents,

a Portion, which, in the humblest Apprehension of his Capacity, he might turn, and wind, and manage, and mould, at his Option; he took a huge Ladle, that hung conveniently beside him, and began to gather this important Remnant to a due Consistence and Cohesion; 'till, quite tired with the Length and Inefficacy of his Labours, and perceiving that the utmost Exertion of his Endeavours could only collect the *** and the ***** of these Symbols to himself; he flew out into a Rage that is not conceivable, and catching up a certain dark and nitrous Composition, which lay ready at hand, like all Instruments of Mischief, he clapped it to the Bottom of the aforesaid Receiver, and thereto applying a Match, he at once blew up the Vessel with all its Contents, and wafted them with the swiftest of his Wishes to the Devil.

At the Noise of this dread Explosion, the Knight awoke. He stared, and trembled, and looked about, and roused every Faculty, yet could scarce be persuaded that what passed was an Illusion. The Violence of his Emotions began at length to subside, a lucid Interval came upon him, Virtue reassumed her Seat in his Bosom, his Humanity was pleased that all was but a Dream; and

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he wondered that he was capable, though barely in Imagination, to bring so fearful and so fatal a Catastrophe upon his Country.

In time however he reflected with less Horrors on this Vision, and conceived that he might deduce a very valuable Moral.

THE House, wherein the great Court of the Manor was kept, stood near the Extremity of the Before-mentioned Bridge; but the Method of returning Members thereto was neither by *Bean*, nor by *Ballot*, nor by any other Manner now practised in the known Parts of our present World.

As the Inhabitants were divided into a Number of separate Districts, each District was provided with a *whispering-Gallery*, a Building contrived with wonderful Art for the horizontal Conveyance of the lightest Sounds along the Wall, without the Knowledge or Privity of any Person whatsoever, save such as were permitted to put their Ear thereto; and from hence it is supposed that the ingenious Architect took his Hint for the present renowned Gallery of St. Paul's in London.

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Once

Once, every Year, the Proprietors in each District used to remit the Names of three Persons to the Lord, all good Men and true and of approved Integrity; and of this Number the Lord yearly nominated One, to be the *Receiver of the Whispers* in the Gallery of his District, a *Commission of the highest Trust and the most publick Importance*.

The Custom ordained, that, when a Vacancy happened in any of the said Districts by the Death or Removal of a Member of the Court, public Notice should be given to the Inhabitants of such District, to consider and consult who was worthiest to succeed.

When the Day of Election came, the Person above appointed to receive the Whispers, who from the Nature of his Office was intitled *the Listener*, sat in that Part of the Gallery which was opposite to the Entrance, with a Desk and a due Quantity of Paper and Ink before him, and with his right Ear *symbolically* inclined and almost close to the Wall.

Matters being thus prepared, each Proprietor entered the Gallery successively, and, laying his Mouth to the Plastering, gently
whispered

whispered the Name of that highly honoured Personage whom he deemed worthiest to be the *Pillar* and *Type* of his District. The *Listner*, receiving the Name, instantly entered it on his Paper; and, if he did not prove a Traitor, to Justice, to Truth, to Confidence, and to his Country, a Thing almost unknown till the Period to which we are hastening, no Doubt could be made of a faithful Return.

Indeed, saving a few Exceptions to the Article of the *Listner*, I could expatiate, through a thousand Pages, on the many and excellent Advantages in this ancient manner of Voting; and I question not but the Reader will at one Glance perceive, that all the Methods, now in Vogue and practised at Elections, are but the Shadows and Corruptions of this great Precedent.

Now, our Knight, being well versed in all the Customs of the Manor, was still deeper read in political Mysteries. He knew that every State and Common-wealth upon Earth was like a Lock with a Key, and a Watch with a Spring, and a Pump with a Handle, and a Barrel with a Spiggot, and a Ship with a Rudder, and a Fish with a Tail, which if Any could have the Address to discover, and at the same time the Ability to seize,

seize, he thereby might *open*, and *shut*, and *move*, and *evacuate*, and *turn about*, and *stop*, and *elevate*, or *depress*, the whole System with all its Contents at his Pleasure.

Wherefore, clearly collecting, from the Chain of Causes and Consequences in the System of the said Manor, that the said *Key*, or *Spring*, or *Handle*, or *Spiggot*, or *Rudder*, or *Tail*, was ultimately fastened to the Posteriors of *Election*; He as clearly concluded, that, could he inform the Mouth of the *Whisperer*, or guide the Pen of the *Listner*, he should then direct *Them*, who should then elect *These*, who should then controul *Those*, who should then rule the Manor at his own Discretion.

Upon this Plan, whenever a Vacancy happened in any of the said Districts, our Knight was a constant and familiar Attendant. He drank, and chatted, and rallied, and joked, and laughed away, and looked serious----He squeezed Hands in turn, called all Friends aside, and whispered round the same Secrets-----He shook his Head, and raised his Shoulder, and talked of Taxes and Grievances-----He wished that some People could be honest, Men were got into a strange World, yet sure there might be such a thing as Integrity extant; he himself was acquainted

ed with Some of the true Cast ; there's honest *Jack* such a one, and our good Friend *Will* : To get such into the Court, ay ; there would be the Point, that indeed would be doing Business, there lay all the Redress that the Manor could look for.

Having thus cajoled these Folks into the requisite Confidence, when the Day of Election came, he took his watchful Stand within the Gallery nearest the Entrance, and successively accosting every Proprietor as he advanced, he suitably addressed them in the following Dialect,

Honest *Thomas*, good morrow, O, I know who you vote for, do me the Favour to let me name our worthy Friend in your Place ----- By your Leave Neighbour *Charles*, you know our Voices like our Hearts always tally alike-----*Dick*! just come in Season, I was going to answer for you, but it will do as well now, I'll e'en venture to stand God-father and make the Vows in your Name----- Honest *Frank*, with your Permission----- Your Ear Sir, pray who is so happy as to have your Favour on this Occasion? The very Man I wanted, shall I make bold, Sir, to express my Approbation of your Choice? ----- Worthy Friend be so good as to lend me your Whisper : Nay, why so difficult? You

You will particularly oblige me. Pshaw, this Backwardness is so silly, do you doubt, Sir, of my Honour?

Thus did our Knight proceed from Election to Election, still whispering for more than half the Proprietors of each District, 'till he had pretty fairly stowed the Court with *his own Begotten*. Then it was that his Stile began to be a little more elevated, his *Requests*, by kindly Indulgence, naturally blossomed into *Dictates*, and those Dictates, as we shall see hereafter, ripened into *Commands*.

IT IS a Misfortune peculiar to us, Historians, that the due Evidence of Facts and Simplicity of Narration as it were shackle and confine us to the Dungeon of Truth; they cruelly shut out the *new Lights* of Invention, neither suffer the sublime Wing of our Genius to soar beyond this trite World of anient Nature: With what Envy do we look up to those Souls of superior Flight, who pass to unknown and illimitable Regions, and thence import to our old World those newer and happier Worlds, of *Novel*, *royal Philosophy*, *Embryos of foreign Reason*, *Utopias in the Moon*, *new Schemes for breeding Maggots*, and *Essays on Spirit*.

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As far, however, as Truth and Nature will permit, I may humbly boast of my Capacity for entertaining my Readers, Antiquity will supply the Place of Invention, and they cannot but be delighted with Transactions, like Fashions, so curious in the Contrivance, and so distant from Home.

I hope I may be pardoned, in the ensuing Narration, the little Regard I shall pay to Chronology or cotemporary Facts; as I propose a much clearer and more orderly Method, in pursuing my separate Subjects, like so many separate Threads, till they end or break off, which I shall then tye altogether, and so wind up my History.

OUR KNIGHT, during the several Intervals of Election, was neither idle nor inattentive to his main Purposes. His Emissaries daily watched the Approaches to the great Bridge, and gave him due Notice when any Passengers drew near. If such happened to come from the Side of his own Country and had not previously advised him of their Journey and Intent, he kindly complained of their want of Confidence in him, and having, by many subtle Questions and smiling Conjectures, insinuated himself
into

into all their Designs, he made them generous Tenders of his Influence above.

Thus, the Inhabitants of said Manor began at first to consider it, as their Interest and Advantage, to constitute *our Hero the sole Medium and Conduct* of all their Concerns with their Lord or his Ministers. Continual Custom and Usage began, in time, to stamp a kind of Right on his Inquiries; and at length it was looked upon as a matter of Injury and Insult to attempt any such Transactions by any other Channel.

On the other hand, when a new Face appeared from the Side of the Superior Manor, his usual and friendly Address was in the following Phraseology---- Sir----May I be so bold?---- You appear a Stranger in these Parts---- Of Distinction, I presume-- what, of that worthy Family?---- Permit me, Sir, to embrace my good Friends in their Relation---- Any particular Commands with me?---- Not that indeed is strange---- You are quite on the wrong Scent---- I would not obtrude my Services---- But some People in some Places are all in all, let me tell you---- You then may command me---- Dear Sir, no further Apology---- Another time

time you will know better where to make your Application.

Thus, artfully investing himself with the Concerns of both Sides, he thence actually conceived that he had a Right to controul them. His gentle *Advice* proceeded to *Direction*, and his Direction ascended to the *Voice imperial*.

Mean time, as he held Fortune to resemble a Building of Cards, which, the higher it is raised, is the apter to tumble, he thought it wisdom to affirm the Same by collateral Props; and with this View he began to set Guards and erect Batteries toward the Passes that led to this *important Bridge*.

As the Court-house of the Manor was contiguous to the said Bridge, he now made it the chief Seat or Palace of his Residence; he caused ample Fortifications to be added thereto, he threw a wide and deep Moat around the Same, and he cast a wondrous Draw-bridge over the Moat, that none might go out, or in, but by his Appointment.

Then did he begin to assume the Ensigns of his Pre-eminence. To the Emissaries of his Lord he said, *I am this People*. To

the People he said, *I stand here in the Authority of your Lord.* And the Emissaries gave Credit to the above Asseveration, and the People cryed Amen, so be it! so be it! So his Hand dispensed the Offices and Favours of his Lord, and the Lord received such Duties and Addresses from the People as barely transpired through his Permission.

And, according to the Custom of other Knights of old, he caused a Pillar to be erected at the End of the great Bridge, and on the Top of the Pillar he fixed his manly and huge Gauntlet, from whence there depended a Label of Parchment, whereon was fairly inscribed what we shall faintly attempt in the following Verses, as it is altogether impossible, through the Poverty of our Language, to find Terms that may express the gallant Spirit of the Original.

Whoever would this Passage free

Must match that Arm that matcheth me.

Five thousand two hundred and fifty nine times did the Sun survey this Gauntlet, in his diurnal Course, untouched and unattempted by any living Wight, and so long did our Knight retain the super-eminent Title
of

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*of the Knight of the Great Passage, or,
the Knight of the Bridge.*

I have informed you, courteous and intelligent Reader, that our Knight had already furnished the Court-house of the Manor with a numerous Family of his own Begetting, and all These were esteemed as so many dutiful Children wholly resigned to the Will of so indulgent a Parent. There were, moreover, many Others, whom he attached by different Tyes, and who were thought equally subservient and submitted to his Nod. Wherefore his Scepter promised, now, to be a Scepter of Duration; for by his Influence in the Country he had reared it in the Manor-Court, and from its Elevation in that Court he stretched it over the Country. By his Interest throughout the Manor he influenced his Lord, and by his Influence with the Lord he ruled all the People.

However, our Knight, with due Forecaſt and Proviſion, conſidered that the Members of this Court were many, that, among them, beſides ſome few Eſſays here or there towards a Patriot, there were vaſt Geniuſes, vaſt Politicians, and vaſt fine Spokeſmen, Youth that had Violence, and Age that had Peeviſhneſs, with a Number of adverſe Conditions
and

and Qualities which some sudden Motion might jumble to a Ferment.

He now also considered the Commonwealth as a Vessel, which was laden with his own Goods, and freighted with his proper Cargo: Wherefore, lest this same *Manor-Court*, which he intitled *the Whale*, should at any time plunge in the Spirit of Wantonness, however for the present it might tamely bear him, as the Dolphin bore *Arion*, on the Broad of its Back, in order to preserve his Rights in the aforesaid Vessel from the Shocks and Collisions of so powerful an Animal, he took Care to provide himself with a few Particulars analagous to *the Tub of ancient Amusement*, whereon the Creature might expend any occasional Virulence, and, thereafter, be restored to its usual Tameness of Temper.

To explain to my Reader the Nature of the said *Amusements*, I must acquaint him that it was held of singular Utility that *three separate Watch-houses* should be erected in the Manor; and that our Knight, when he observed any Tendency toward Turbulence in the Court-house, in a long Void of Business or Dearth of
other

other Diversions, threw those *Watch-houses* to them as Food for their Debate.

Now the Method of concluding any Thing in the said Court was this. Their Proceedings were declared by the way of Resolutions, which Resolutions were conceived to have been built upon Reasons, which Reasons were supposed to have been resolved to have been implied.

So, the first Year, they resolved to build three new *Watch-houses*, by repairing an old *Barn*, an old *Malt-house*, and an old *Inn*. And, next, they resolved to make three old *Watch-houses*, by permitting the three new Ones to run to Decay. And, next, they resolved to erect three new *Watch-houses*, where no *Watch-house* had ever been before. And, next, they resolved to remove the three new *Watch-houses* to the Place where the old *Watch-houses* had formerly stood. And, next, they resolved that no more Money should be given for the Repairs of the said *Watch-houses*. And, next, they resolved that all the Money in the Manor was kindly at the Service of the Repairs of the said *Watch-houses*. And, next, they

they resolved that five and forty Pounds should be given to a certain honest Mason for the Repairs of the said Watch-houses. And, next, they resolved that the said Mason was a Rogue, and that he should repair the said Watch-houses at his own Expence.

Resolutions, which Resolutions were conceived to have been built upon Resolutions which Resolutions were supposed to have been resolved to have been implied.

So, the first Year, they resolved to build three new Watch-houses, by repairing an old Barn, an old Mill-house, and an old Jail. And, next, they resolved

End of the Third Letter.

to make three new Ones to run to mixing the three new Ones to run to Liberty. And, next, they resolved to erect three new Watch-houses, where no Watch-house had ever been before. And, next, they resolved to remove the three new Watch-houses to the Place where the old Watch-houses had formerly stood.

And, next, they resolved that no more Money should be given for the Repairs of the said Watch-houses. And, next, they resolved that all the Money in the Manor was kindly at the Service of the Repairs of the said Watch-houses. And, next, they